Development of a Space-qualifiable, Conductively-cooled 2-micron Coherent Lidar Transmitter for Global Wind Measurements

Upendra N. Singh, Mulugeta Petros, Jirong Yu, and Michael J. Kavaya
NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, Virginia 23681 USA
Timothy Shuman and Floyd Hovis
Fibertek, Inc, Herndon, Virginia, USA
(757).864.1570
Upendra.N.Singh@nasa.gov

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Boulder, Colorado
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Outline

- **Background and motivation**
- **Technology Development**
  - Compact 2µm wind lidar transceiver
  - Conductive cooled 2µm Oscillator/Amplifier development
- **Ground and Airborne campaigns**
- **Fully Conductively-cooled Risk Reduction Laser**
- **Conclusions**

Motivation for 2µm Laser/Lidar Development
NRC Recommended "3-D Winds" Mission

"Knowledge derived from global tropospheric wind measurement is an important constituent of our overall understanding of climate behavior .[1]"

EARTH SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS FROM SPACE

NATIONAL IMPERATIVES FOR THE NEXT DECADE AND BEYOND

Committee on Earth Science and Applications from Space: A Community Assessment and Strategy for the Future

Space Studies Board

Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences

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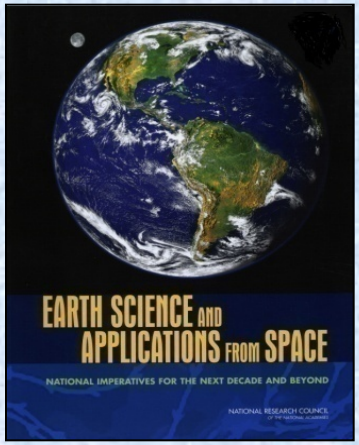
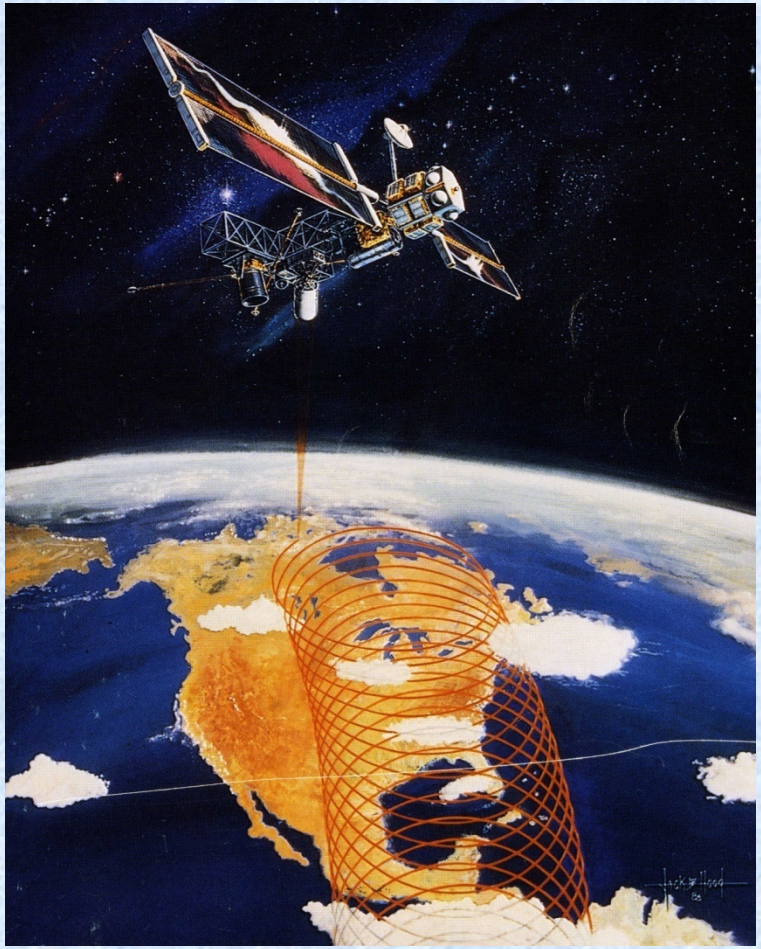


Global Winds 9 Societal Benefits	
Extreme Weather Warnings	✓
Human Health	✓
Earthquake Early Warning	
Improved Weather Prediction	**✓#1**
Sea-Level Rise	
Climate Prediction	
Freshwater Availability	
Ecosystem Services	
Air Quality	✓

[1] Baker et al., *Lidar measured Wind Profiles – The Missing Link in the Global Observing System*, Bulletin American Meteorological Society. 95 (4), 515-519 (April 2014)

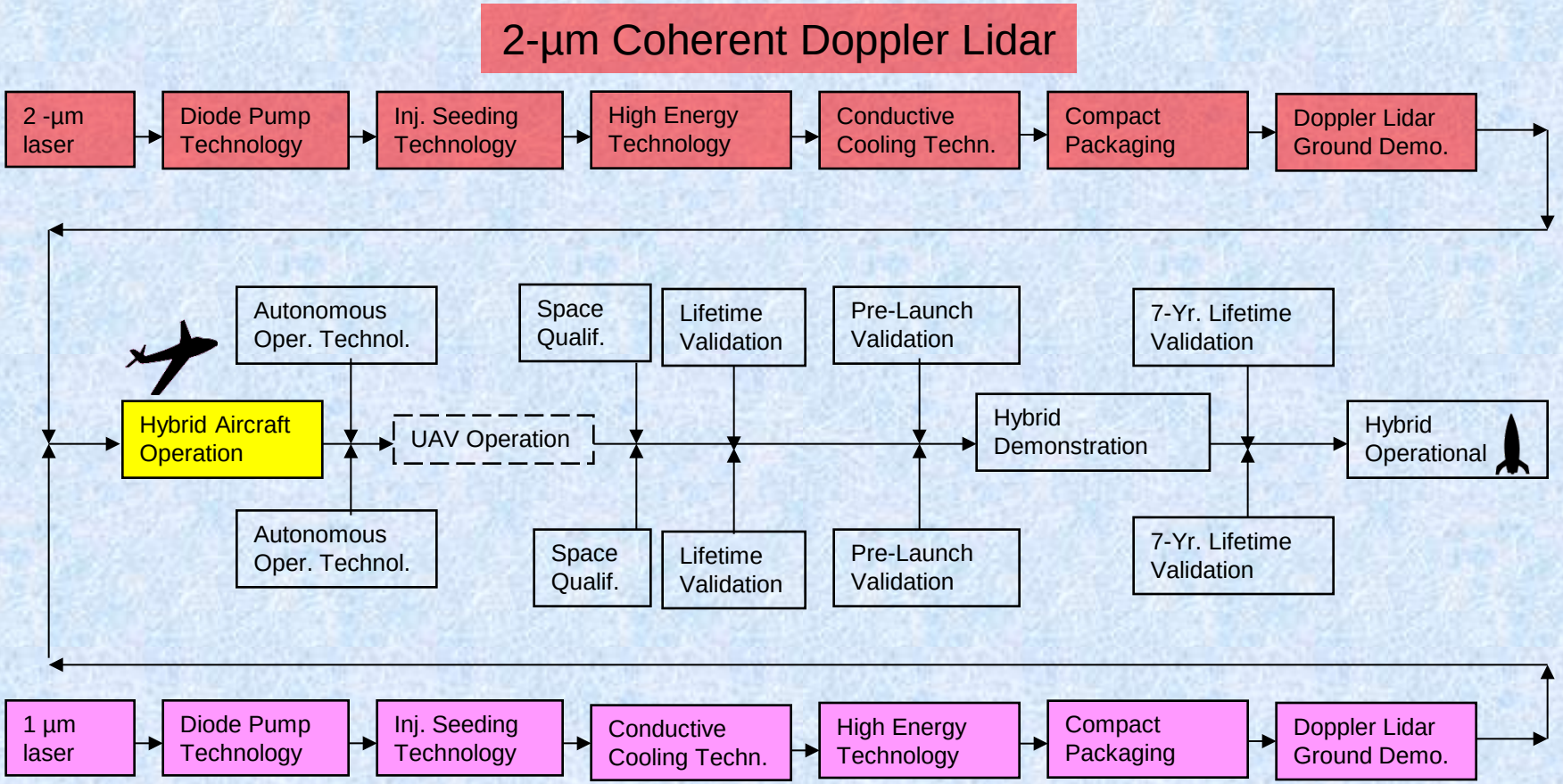
Early Mission Concept for Earth Winds
Laser Atmospheric Wind Sounder (LAWS)



- 525 km orbit height
- Single, pulsed coherent Doppler lidar system covers troposphere
- Continuously rotating telescope/scanner
- Line of sight (LOS) wind profiles from each laser shot
- ~ 20 J pulse energy
- ~ 1.5 m rotating telescope

- Required: eye-safe laser

Space-Based Doppler Wind Lidar



Global Winds Approach Using Hybrid Doppler Lidar

Basic Performance Goals for 2µm Doppler Lidar

Wavelength	2.053 -µm
Laser Pulse Energy	250 mJ
Repetition Rate	10 Hz
Pulse Width	>150 ns
Beam Quality	$M^2 < 1.2$
Pulse Spectrum	Single frequency (seeded)
Cooling	Conductively cooled via heat pipes
Laser Size	23.9” x 14” x 7.7” (L x W x H) Including heat pipes and condenser

Laser Risk Reduction Program (LaRC-GSFC)

(NASA HQ Funded Directed Program 2001-2010)

2 Lasers, 4 Techniques, 6 Priority Measurements

Pulsed Laser Development

2 MICRON

Key Technologies in Common

- Laser Diodes
- Laser Induced Damage
- Frequency Control
- Electrical Efficiency
- Heat Removal
- Ruggedness
- Lifetime
- Contamination Tolerance

1 MICRON

2.05 micron

DIAL: CO_2

Doppler Lidar: Coherent Ocean/River Surface Currents

Backscatter Lidar: Aerosols/Clouds

2.05 micron

Atmosphere: Lower Upper

Doppler Lidar: Wind

Coherent Winds

Coherent

Direct

Noncoherent Winds

X3

0.355 micron

1.06 micron

X2

Altimetry: Surface Mapping, Oceanography

DIAL: Ozone

X2

0.532 micron

OPO

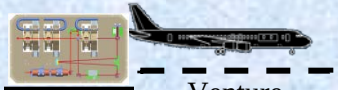
0.30-0.32 micron

Backscatter Lidar: Aerosols/Clouds

Process to 3-D Winds Space Mission at NASA Langley

Technology | Science | Technology | Science

Past | Current | Future



NRC Decadal Survey 3-D Winds Space Mission

7 years SMD-ESD

Venture Class Science Flights

5 years SMD-ESD

ACT

12 15 SMD-ESD

DAWN on UC-12B

LaRC FY12

GRIP Hurricane Campaign

12 15 SMD-ESD

DAWN-AIR2

10 09 ESTO 11

DAWN-AIR1

08 SMD-ESD 10

Ground Intercomparison

08 SMD-ESD 09

IPP

08 SMD-ESD 10

DAWN

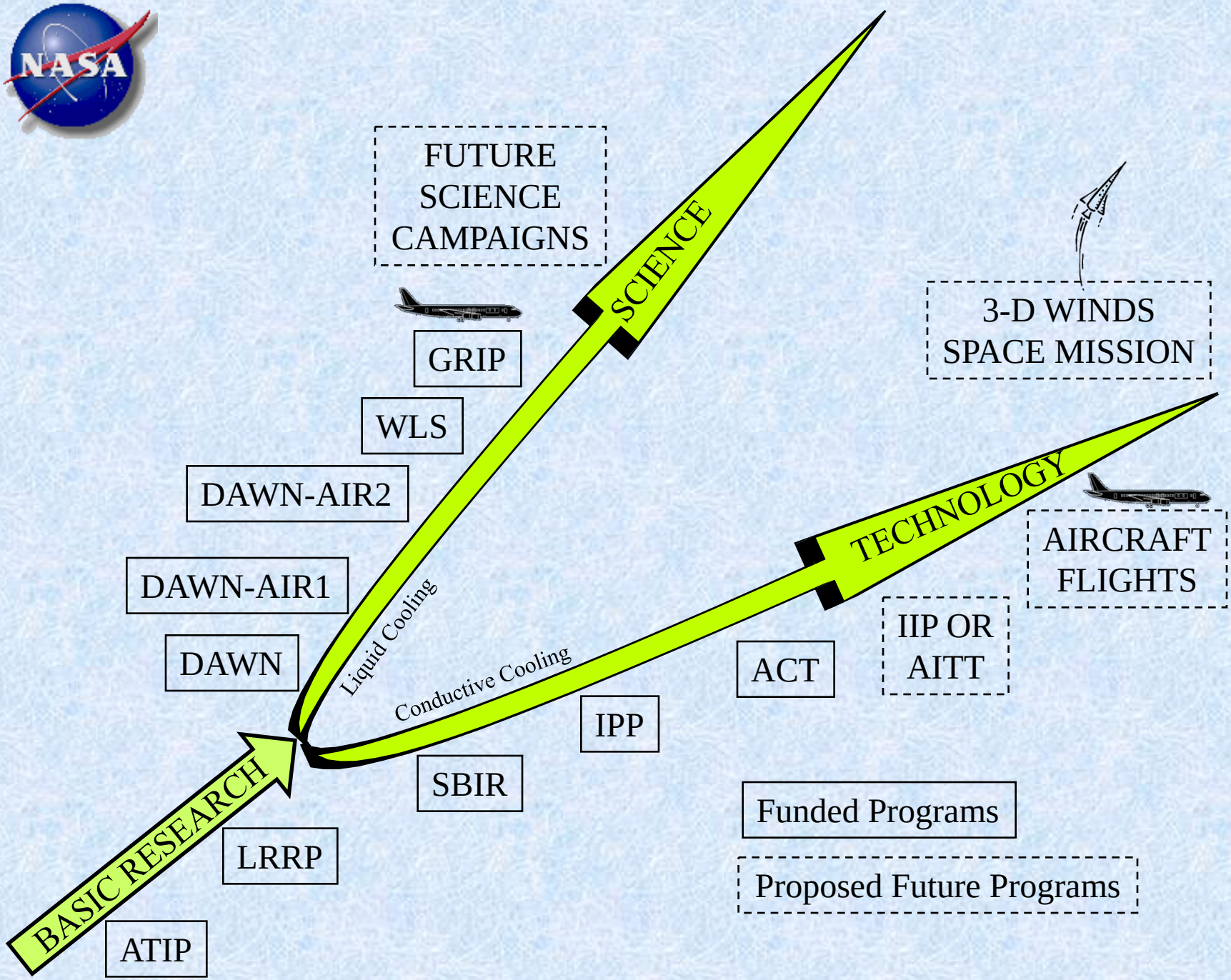
06 ESTO 08

LRRP

02 ESTO 09

ATIP

Past


FUTURE SCIENCE CAMPAIGNS
SCIENCE
GRIP
WLS
DAWN-AIR2
DAWN-AIR1
DAWN
3-D WINDS SPACE MISSION
TECHNOLOGY
AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS
Liquid Cooling
Conductive Cooling
IIP OR AITT
ACT
IPP
SBIR
BASIC RESEARCH
LRRP
ATIP
Funded Programs
Proposed Future Programs

Hurricane & Monsoon Research

Polar Winds Iceland

Polar Winds Greenland

GRIP

WLS

DAWN-AIR2

DAWN-AIR1

DAWN

Science Track

Liquid Cooling

Technology Track

Conductive Cooling

"3-D WINDS" SPACE MISSION

AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS

AITT

SPACE QUALIFICATION

ACT

IPP

SBIR

LRRP

ATIP

1980s

BASIC RESEARCH

Future Projects

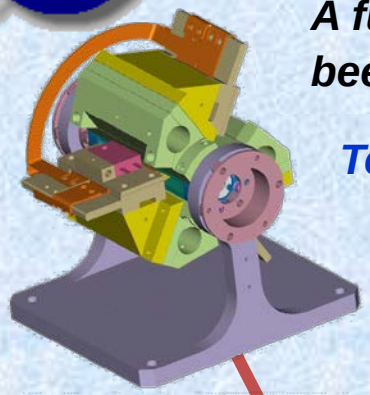
Proposed Projects

Funded Projects

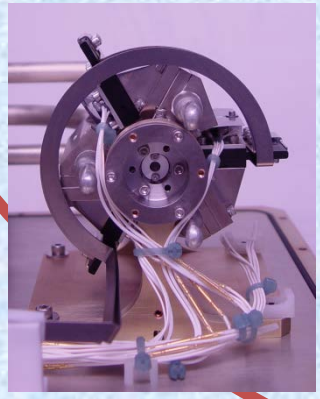
Wind Lidar Technology Maturation

A fully conductively cooled 2-micron solid-state pulsed laser has been demonstrated for the first time.

Technology Enables: Measurement of global 3-D Winds



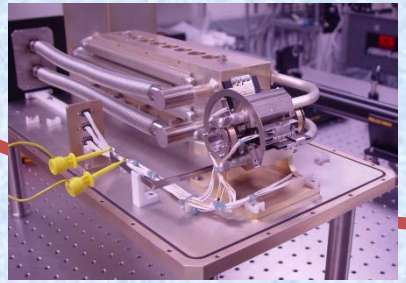
Analysis & Design



Fabrication

Space Qualifiable Design

Quantum Mechanical Modeling

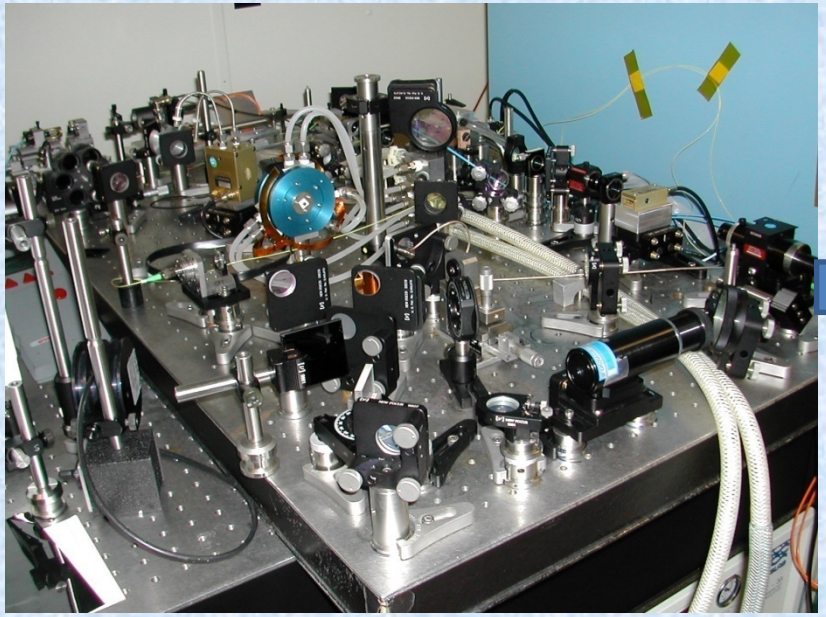


System Integration

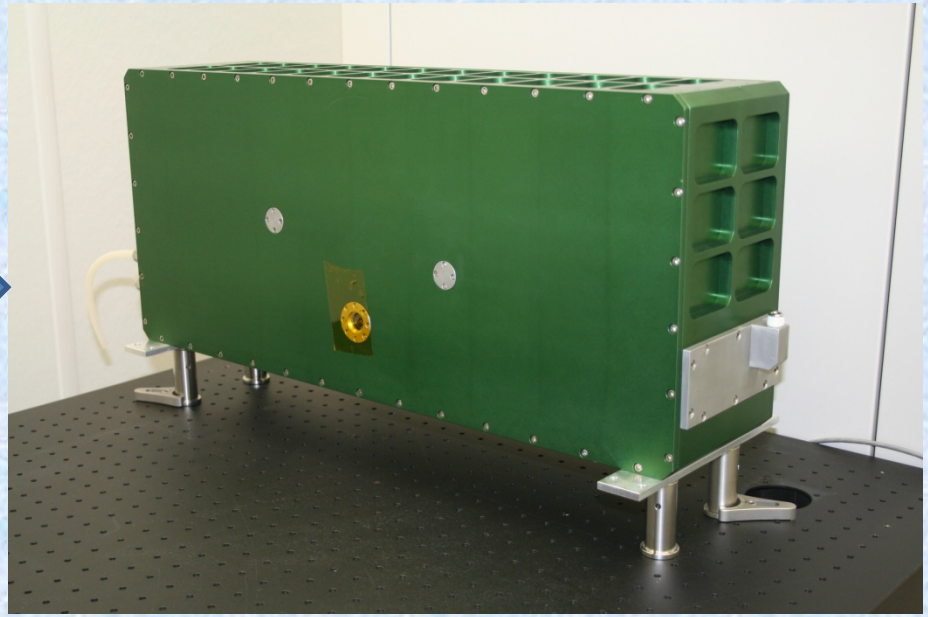
Testing and Model Verification

Mobile Ground based High Energy Wind Lidar Transceiver – LRRP/DAWN Funded

Table Top Transceiver
(Transmitter + Receiver)
90 mJ/pulse, 5 pulses/sec.
3'x4' Optical Table
(no telescope or scanner)



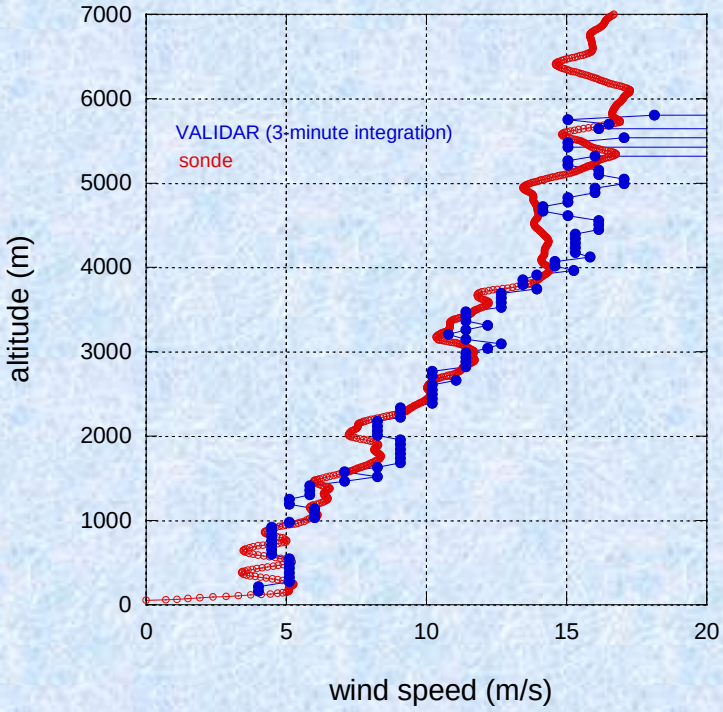
Engineered Transceiver
250 mJ/pulse, 10 pulses/sec.
5.9" x 11.6" x 26.5", 75 lbs.;
15 x 29 x 67 cm, 34 kg
(no telescope or scanner)

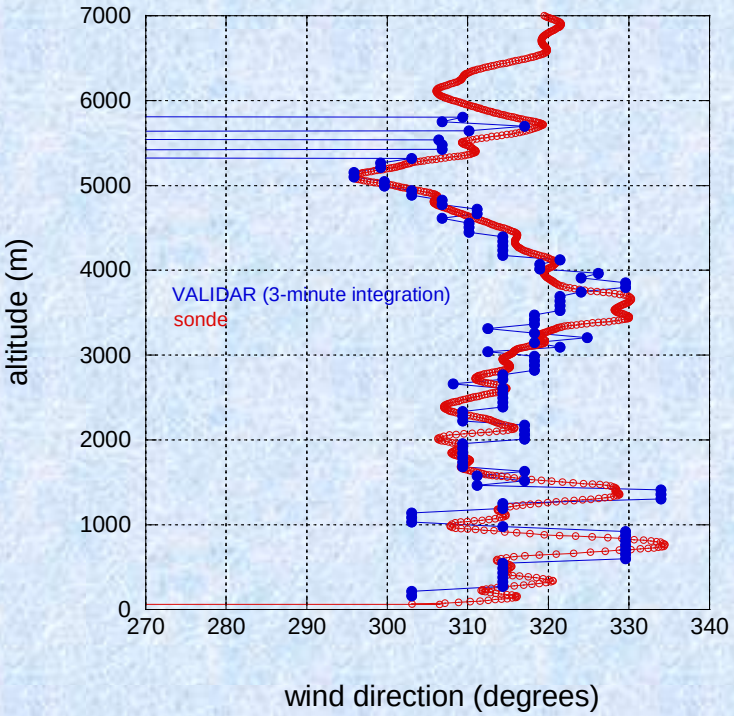


Ground-Based Hybrid Wind Lidar Demo

- The LaRC mobile lidar is deployed as part of NASA HQ funded Program
- Utilized NASA LaRC Compact DAWN Lidar Transceiver for 2-µm lidar
- Site at Howard University Research Campus in Beltsville, Maryland

Comparison of Coherent Lidar and Sonde

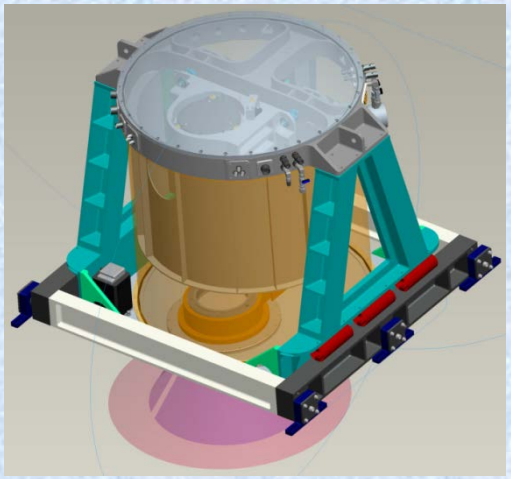


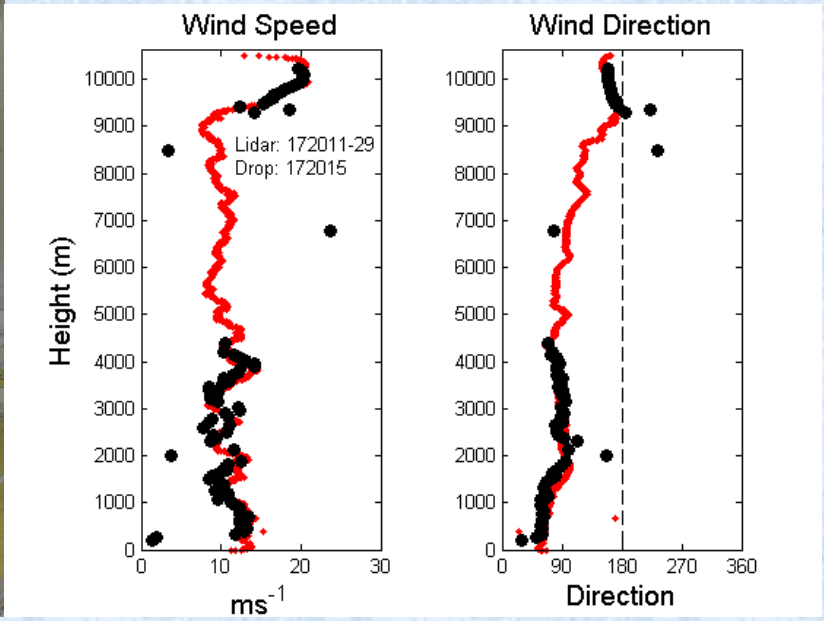


- Root-mean-square of difference between two sensors for all points shown is **1.06 m/s** for wind speed and **5.78 deg.** for wind direction

DC-8 Wind Lidar During GRIP (2010)

- Harden the transmitter for airborne application
- Add telescope and scanner within the enclosure
- Airborne wind measurement during GRIP campaign





LaRC Partnership with Fibertek for Space Qualifiable 2-micron Laser Development for NASA 3-D Wind Mission

- **Laser Risk Reduction Program (ESTO) - 2001-'10**
  - LaRC has demonstrated fully conductively cooled oscillator/amplifier to 400 mJ, 5 Hz (08/07)

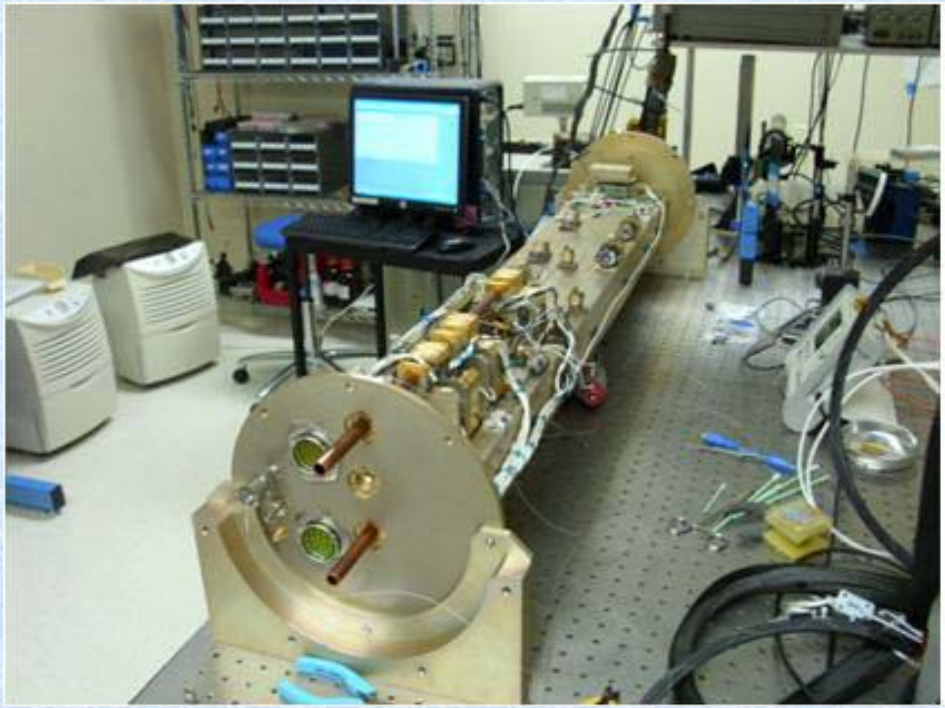
Partnership with Fibertek:

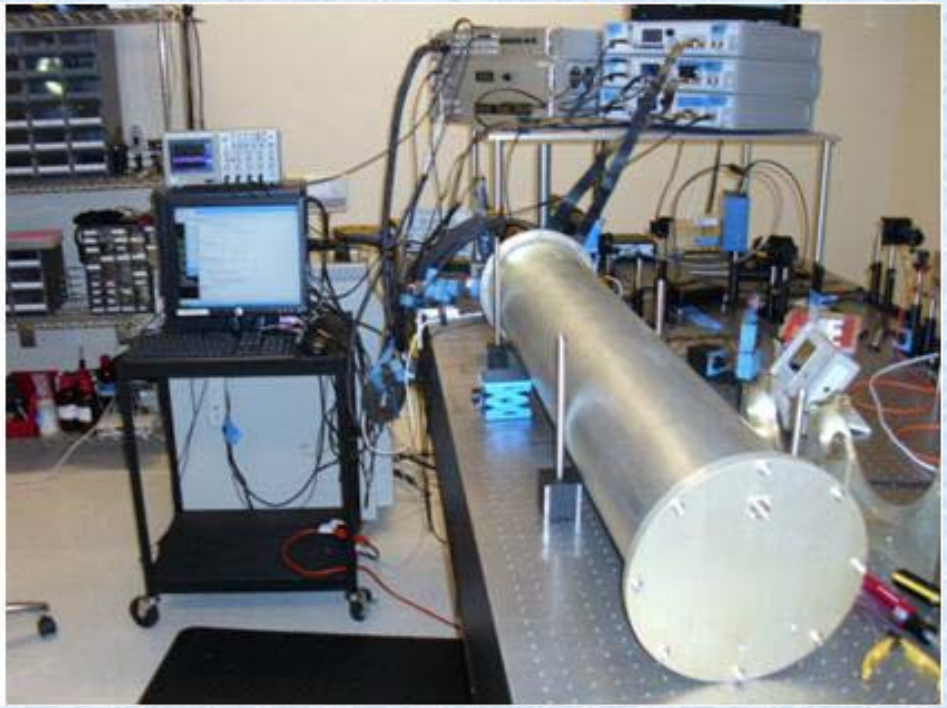
- **Innovative Partnership Program (LRRP/ESD/Fibertek)**
  - 3-m cavity, 792 nm pumped, conductively cooled 200 mJ, single frequency output at 5 Hz – first generation
- **Advanced Component Technology (LaRC/ESTO/Fibertek)**
  - Compact, 1.5 meter cavity, 808 nm pumped, fully conductively cooled laser transmitter delivering wind quality 250 mJ 10 Hz output for 3-D Wind mission

Innovative Partnership Program (LRRP/ESD/Fibertek) 2007-2010

(PI: Singh, Co-I: Yu, Kavaya LaRC; Co-I: Hovis, Fibertek)

Single frequency 2-micron Laser (200 mJ/5Hz) built and delivered by Fibertek to NASA LaRC



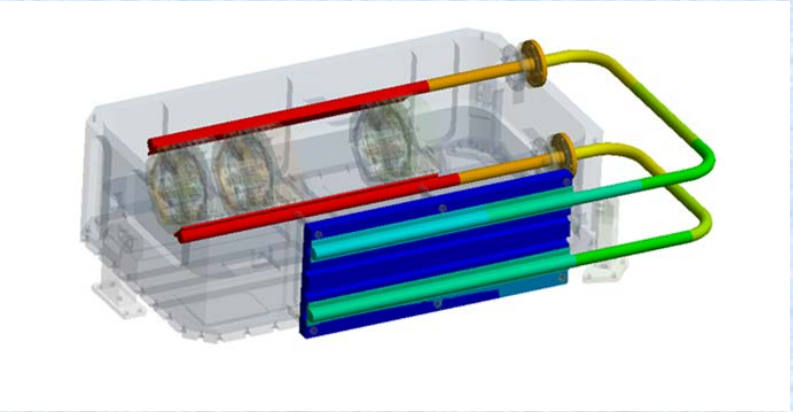


2-micron Risk Reduction Laser Transmitter

Design and Fabrication of a Breadboard, Fully Conductively Cooled, 2-Micron, Pulsed Laser for the 3-D Winds Decadal Survey Mission

PI: Upendra Singh, NASA LaRC

- Design and fabricate a space-qualifiable, fully conductively-cooled, 2-micron pulsed laser breadboard meeting the projected 3-D Winds mission requirements
  - Utilize improvements in key technologies including high-power, long-life space-proven 804 nm pump diodes; derated diode operation, and heat pipe conductive cooling
- Perform a long-duration life test on the laser system to evaluate mission readiness.



2-Micron Space Qualifiable
Pulsed Laser for 3-D Winds

- Leverage LaRC 2-micron laser development from earlier efforts
- Utilize Fibertek CALIPSO mission flight laser design and development knowledge
- Upgrade previous Fibertek two-micron laser design for flight-like laser based on space heritage
- Utilize space-ready, sealed cylindrical package
- Perform vacuum test while operating at the output requirements of the 3-D Winds mission

• Complete laser mechanical design update and improved laser thermal modeling	01/13
• Assemble and test heat pipe cooled module	04/13
• Fabricate and test ring laser with heat pipe cooled module	12/13
• Install and test amplifiers	03/14
• Integrate with canister and test	04/14
• Vacuum-test laser	10/14
• Complete acceptance testing	07/15
• Complete analysis and performance testing	12/15

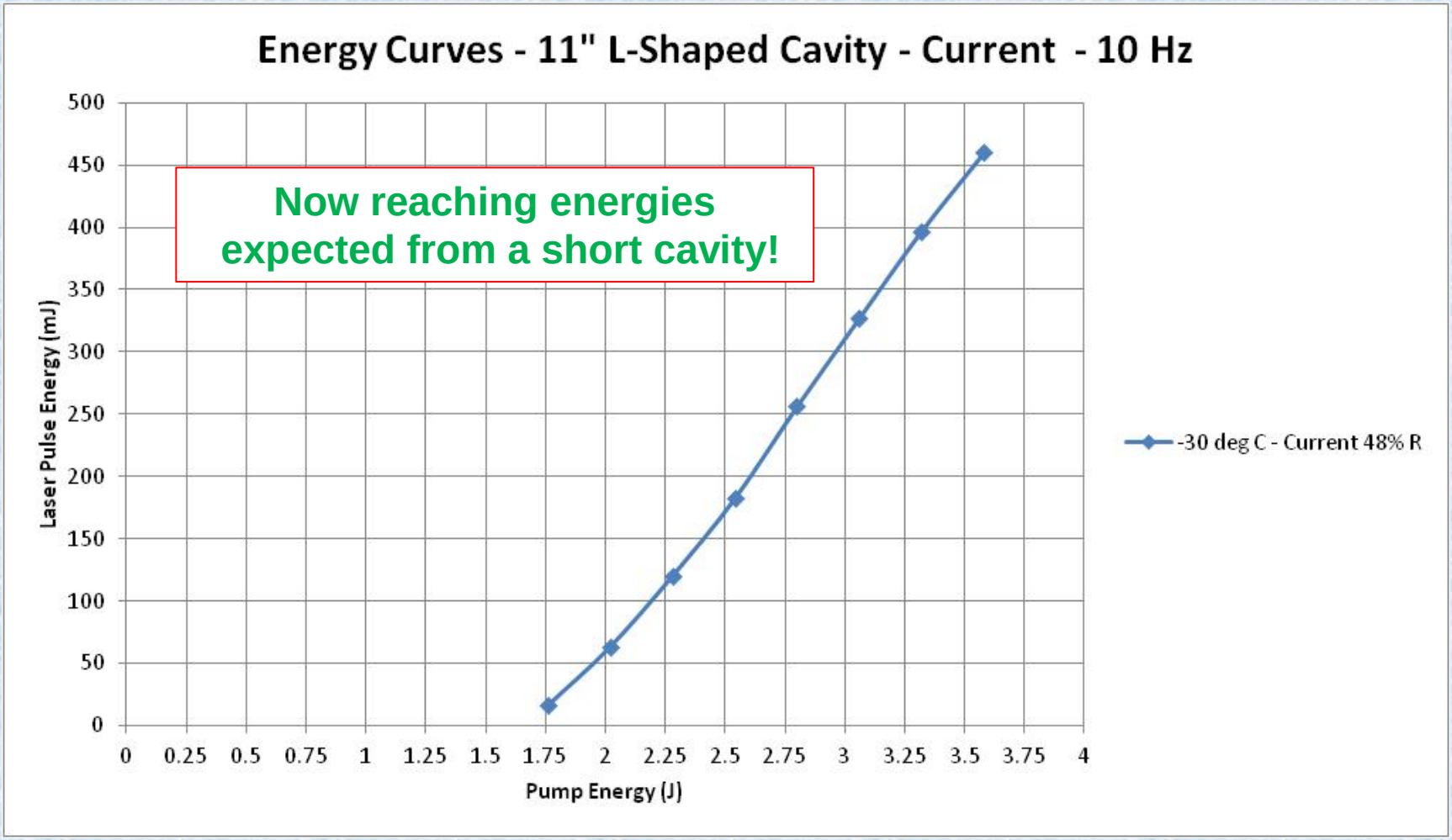
Co-Is/Partners: Jirong Yu, Michael Kavaya, LaRC;
Floyd Hovis, Tim Shuman, Fibertek, Inc.

TRL_{in} = 3 TRL_{out} = 5

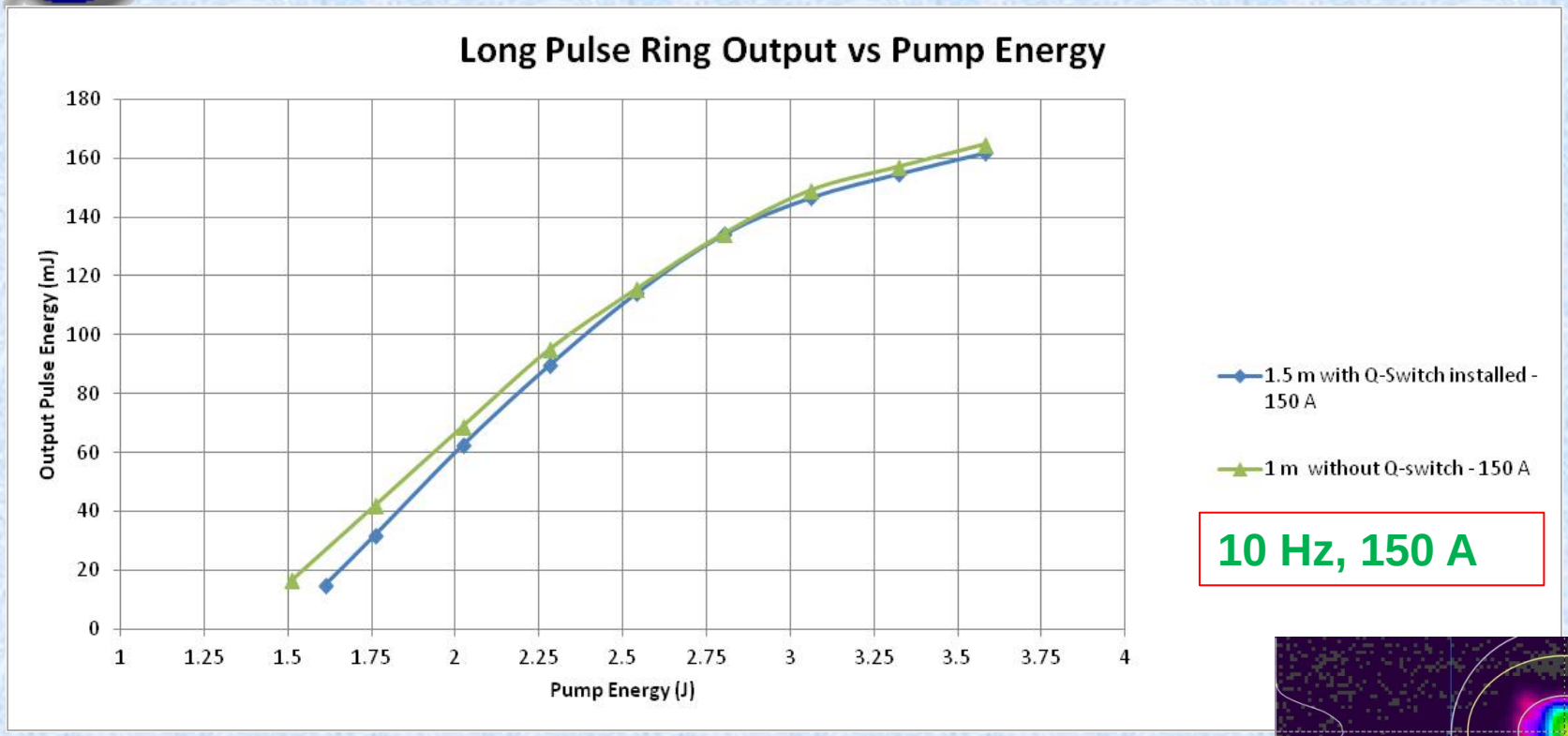
ACT Program Summary

- **Technical Objective(s)–**
  - *Deliver a ruggedized 2.053 µm MOPA laser with the following parameters:*
    - *250 mJ pulse energy*
    - *10 Hz repetition rate*
    - *Beam quality (M^2) < 1.2*
    - *>100 ns pulse width*
    - *Conductively cooled via heat pipes*
  - *Reach Technical Readiness Level (TRL) 5 by surviving a thermal-vac test.*
- **Period of Performance** – *38 months*
- **Deliverable Items -** *2 µm laser meeting the performance requirements after surviving a thermal vac test, monthly technical and financial reports, quarterly and yearly financial reports, thermal vac test definition and results report, oscillator test procedure and results report, final technical report*
  - *2 µm laser transmitter meeting the performance requirements and surviving a thermal-vac test*
  - *Thermal vac test procedure and results report*
  - *Oscillator and amplifier performance report*

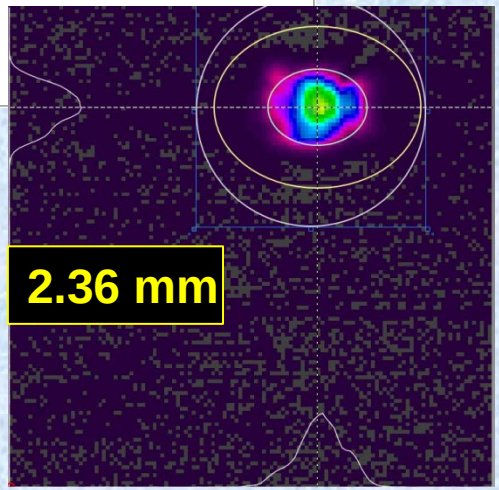
Linear Cavity Data



Current Ring Laser Results – Long Pulse



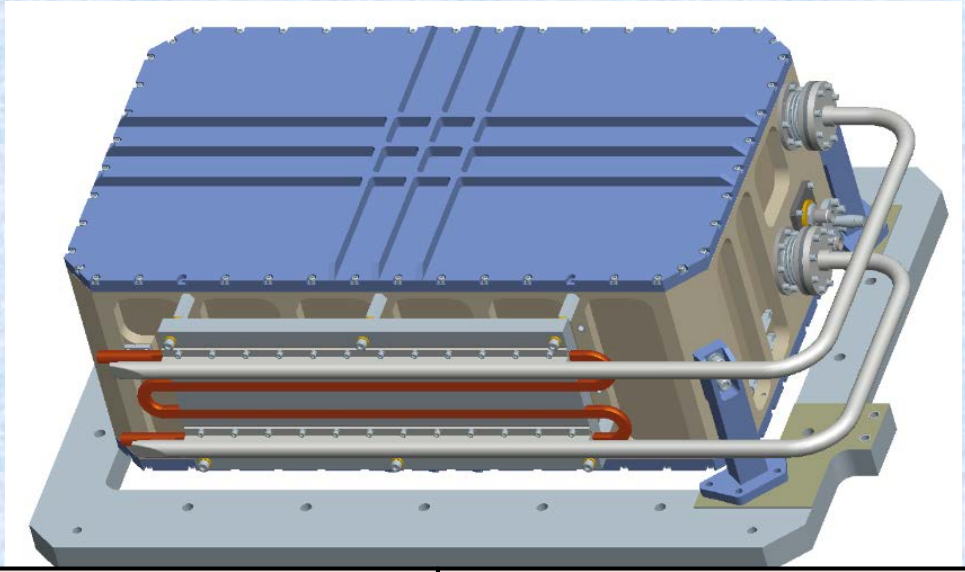
10 Hz, 150 A



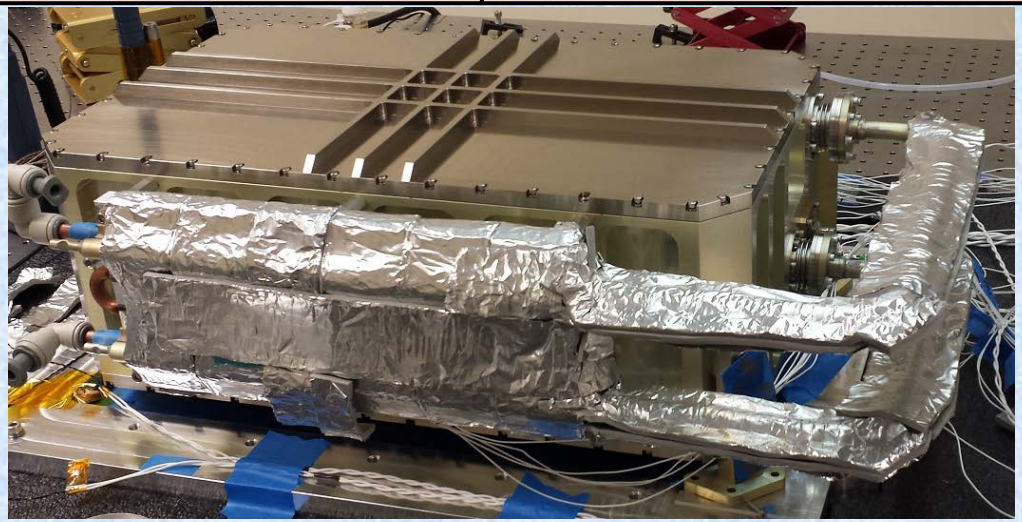
Expect 80 mJ of Q-switched output for 3.6 J of pump energy

Phase II achieved 3X amplification – on track for 240 mJ after amplifier pair

Conductively Cooled Laser Design



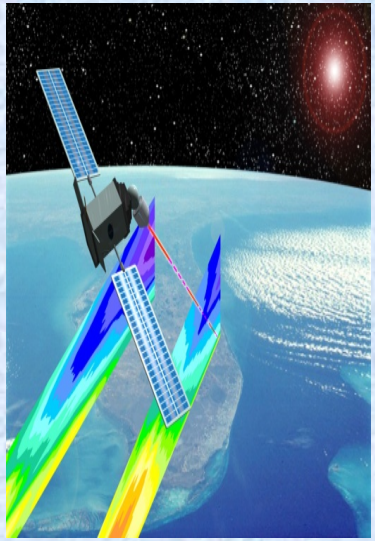
Box dims: 19”x11”x7.1” (LxWxH) **ICESat-2**: 16”x11”x4.4” (LxWxH) Mounting feet for illustration only	**Housing itself: 19”L x 11”W x 6.1”H** **Complete assembly : 23.9”L x 14”W x 7.7”H**



Summary and Conclusion

Past
525 km
12 cross-track positions
1 shot measurement
Continuously rotating 1.5 m telescope
Single coherent Doppler lidar
Gas laser
20 mJ 2µm solid state energy
Space required energy = 20 J
Energy deficit = 1,000
2µm lidar not aircraft validated

Today
400 km
2 cross-track positions
Multiple shot accumulation
4 stationary 0.5 m telescopes
Dual- coherent & direct hybrid Doppler lidar
Solid-state eyesafe laser
1200 mJ 2-µm solid state energy
Space required energy = 0.25 J
Energy surplus = 5
2µm lidar is aircraft validated



Questions?